

THE STATE CAPITAL.

Hon. J. P. Ayres' Dignified and Manly
Reply to the Gazette's Criticism of His

Bill to Prevent the Ownership of Land
in Large Bodies.

Senator Gibbs' Views on the Penitentiary
Lease.

A Little Pleasantry in the House.

LETTER FROM HON. J. P. AYRES.
AUSTIN, February 15, 1883.
B. B. Paddock, Esq., Fort Worth:

Dear Sir: My attention is called to a notice in the GAZETTE of a bill which I presented in the house, entitled "an act to prevent the ownership of land in large bodies, to provide for escheats and for compensation." The right of the GAZETTE to criticize and to condemn whatever it believes to be wrong in the actions of men in public service, is fully conceded, and evokes no complaint from me. But, as I understand you are the author of the notice in question, the friendly relations that have subsisted between us, arising from an acquaintance formed during the two sessions of the seventeenth legislature, induce me to write to you in reply.

You assume the bill to be unconstitutional, pronounce the idea advanced silly, and ascribe it to the influence of popular clamor. All this and more I pass in good humor, esteeming it as an illustration of the license of the press. Whether the bill is constitutional or otherwise, as you assume it is not, it is not now my purpose to discuss. Suffice it, however, that the bill was the result of mature reflection and is believed by the author to be wholly unobjectionable on this ground. It provides for full compensation to the owner for any land which may be taken by the state. If the state has a use for the land, the clause of the constitution you refer to authorizes the state to take the land upon making the owner due compensation therefor. Now the question is, has the state a use for a portion of the immense tracts of land now being fenced by individuals, firms and corporations against the balance of the world? It may be said that there is plenty of land for homes for all who wish to acquire them, and it is true that those who are just now able and desirous to acquire homes may do so at small cost, but it is equally true that within a few years the public lands will all be taken up and will in a large measure have fallen into the hands of owners disposed to hold them in large bodies. I have always understood it to be the policy of this state not only to sell her lands but to settle them as well, and my bill is in exact line and unison with this policy. Texas not only renounces the doctrine of primogeniture but goes a step further and expresses a purpose and desire that actual settlers should buy and occupy her lands as homes, the impression being that "the land of the free" is inseparable from "the home of the brave." The hurry and bustle and confusion incident to the settlement of this new country has caused this cardinal idea and fundamental principle to fall at times into obscurity; but, sir, I see no reason to believe the state has ever abandoned her original, and oft enunciated, purpose and desire. To the contrary the popular clamor to which you refer itself shows and adheres to this policy, and a determination to enforce it—yes, to enforce it. You say, "agrarianism!" It is easy to respond in hackneyed terms, coined by feudal lords, who laughed at the request of their vassals for land upon which to labor and earn their bread. Happily, such terms have no application in this country. Texans are at peace, and love their state. Who can question her duty, or the plenitude of her authority and power to promote their greatest good?

Yours, truly,
J. P. AYRES.

JUST A LITTLE FUN.

Speaker Gibson and Representative Graves of Grayson having distinguished themselves by the display of their musical talent on the night of the 16th Mr. Rushing of Kaufman moved that Mr. Nash of Dallas take the chair. Mr. Rushing offered a resolution that the aforesaid gentlemen be tendered the use of the hall on Monday night for the purpose of a musical entertainment and that a sufficient sum be appropriated to purchase for each of them a guitar and banjo. The resolution was unanimously adopted. It was moved and seconded that a committee of three be appointed to notify Speaker Gibson and Mr. Graves of the action of the body. The chair appointed Messrs. Rushing, Pendleton and Etheredge, and the meeting adjourned.

SENATOR GIBBS ON THE PENITENTIARY LEASE.

Mr. Gibbs gave as his reason for opposing the lease, that it allowed the lessee to transport convicts from place to place on railroad and other similar work, and that under this system the convict could not be properly cared or duly inspected.

He favors plantation work for surplus until all can be put in the walls, or that they be contracted out on stationary work where they can be kept in greater security and more humanely treated.

CASH BALLS.

A Novel Device for Carrying the Cash in
Retail Stores.

(Philadelphia Times.)

Among the conveniences that have been introduced in the leading retail stores of this city the one lately adopted by Sharpless & Sons for conveying cash and making change between the counter and cashier's desk is attracting the attention of people who do much shopping. It is thought to be the simplest of the many inventions that have been brought out to take the place of cash boys, and is said to be more economical and expeditious. The principal feature is a light, double track like a miniature railroad, suspended over the counter, to which hollow balls are hoisted, and along which they roll by gravity. The arrangement of the track is such that there is an up track and a down track to every point. Thus when a saleswoman hoists the ball or carrier containing the money

by means of the pulley elevator, she raises it to a tramway much higher than the one upon which it returns to her from the cashier. Seen in operation, with the numerous balls in motion, it is not unlike the arrangement in use for returning the balls in a bowling alley. The carriers are very curious. Inside of each there is a coiled spring with a metal disc, so that when the money is put inside the hollow sphere, and the two halves clasped together, the money is tightly held, and cannot rattle while rolling. The tracks make easy curves, reaching every part of the large store, which is 100 by 175 feet. There are a number of branches or switches so arranged that large balls go in one direction and small balls in another.

Where there are a number of salesmen on one line of rails, there has to be some means of stopping each carrier ball on the return track at the right salesman or station. This is done by a graduated stop, so arranged that it allows all the balls intended for stations beyond to pass and stops the one intended for that place. The greatest height of any of the tramways is thirteen feet, and the grade is three-sixteenths of an inch to a foot. The longest single track in the first floor is 135 feet. No power is required, no engineer, no machinery, and the system runs itself and keeps itself in order. The balls are perfectly honest and never lose anything, which is more than could always be said for the cash boys. The great difficulty with the boys was one or another of them was always losing a quarter or half dollar, and upon returning short amounts raised questions as to whether the saleswoman gave it to them. All this is now overcome, and whereas the firm employed over eighty cash boys and cash girls on the first floor alone, they are now able to get along with less than half that number. The boys are now only used as carrying packages from place to place. Money can be conveyed to the cashier's desk and returned to any point in three minutes or less, if the cashier is not over-run with consignments.

CHARACTERISTIC HANDWRITING.

Identification by Signature—The Experience of Bank-Tellers.
(News Letter.)

A good handwriting is getting to be one of the lost arts. The fathers and grandfathers of the present generation, as a general thing, wrote a handsome and more legible hand than do their children and grandchildren. There is one point in penmanship to which I have just been giving some attention. It relates to the testimony of handwriting. Not long ago a man was hanged in New England by handwriting experts. As a class, such experts ought not to have influence enough to hang a cat. And now it is claimed that some Brussels murderers have been run down by tell-tale tricks of their penmanship. The readers of this little note may be assured that the writer of it knows individuals who can write other people's names so cunningly that these other people can not decide whether the signatures are their own or not. I have actual cases in mind where this puzzle has been tried. One notable instance I must mention. The state of Massachusetts not many years since had two of its bonds presented for redemption which seemed precisely alike. One was a forged bond throughout. The officers whose names appeared upon these bonds could not tell "which was which." But this is nothing. I have a man near me who can write your signature and mine, or the signature of any person that may be placed before him as a study, so cunningly that neither you nor I can tell which. It is lucky that he is an honest man, or he might do dangerous work with your name on a big check or note. Bankers in the United States place little reliance upon signatures as a means of identification in payment of checks, etc. The person who presents a check to a Boston bank for payment must be positively identified before the money will be paid to him. It is in vain for him to offer as evidence that he is the right man any handwriting testimony. And it does not make any difference whether the check is payable to bearer or order. Identification in both cases is demanded. In England one finds a most marked difference from this way of doing business. The paying teller of a London bank tries to assure himself that the face of a check is all right, both in point of signature of drawer and as regards the drawer's balance, and then slaps out the money to whoever presents the check. It matters not whether the check is payable to order or to bearer. He demands no identification in either case. He only looks on the back of the order check to see if it has the name endorsed. This check-paying custom did not prevail in England. At one time the English practice in these premises was the same as ours is now. At that time we copied our custom from them. They have since progressed out of it. We remain tied to their old style. We shall get out of this rut some of these days. The great bankers of London long ago found they could never get through their business if the identification responsibility was to remain upon them. They pressed the matter upon the attention of parliament. Parliament came to their relief. It said pay checks to whoever presents them, and your whole duty is done. If I today drop my check in London, made payable to order of W. B. Morrill, the first rascal that picks it up in the street and puts W. B. Morrill's name to the back may collect that check—and get imprisoned for life for so doing. It is, of course, the imperative duty of any person who has lost a check to have the payment stopped at once.

Two Good Reasons.

(Coleridge's Voice.)

There are two papers published in Texas which we never like to clip from, for two excellent reasons. The first: When we take our scissors in hand we do not know where to begin or end, for every item is one of interest. The second: Nearly everybody reads these papers, and the clipping is not new to them. We refer to the Galveston News and Fort Worth GAZETTE.

ACKER'S DYSPEPSIA TABLETS
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GOULD'S TRIP.

The Railroad King Going Abroad to See
Strange Countries.

Some of His Peculiar Traits of Character
Exhibited in Print.

(New York Times.)

The King will amuse himself. Jay Gould is going abroad, strange countries for to see. When Gould was feted and toasted by a company of his flattering admirers, once upon a time, he confided to them that it could not be expected that a man so rich as he should keep on making money because he wanted it. He explained that his operations in Wall-street were undertaken solely for the purpose of furnishing him amusement. It pleased him to hear the blarneyings of the shorn lambs. He snatched a savage joy from the lamentations of those who were crippled by his occasional raids upon the stock market. He did not need the money, not he; but it was a pleasure to pile up useless and superfluous millions, just to show that it could be done. And when his faithful messengers had brought in to his office from their respective fifty and odd millions to show to a casual caller, he asked, "Is there any more up stairs, Morini?" as a house-wife might say, "Is there any more cold ham in the pantry, Mary Jane?" Some men make money because they have nothing else to employ their time. Others because they are miserly and never satisfied with their acquisitions. Mr. Gould has rigged the market and has plundered corporations simply for the amusement of the passing hour. He is your true Sybarite. He long since made more money than he really wanted. But he has enjoyed getting money away from others, precisely as one of the old-fashioned robber barons enjoyed swooping down on peaceful travelers, stripping them of their goods, and whipping them until they howled right merrily. After a certain point, Gould said, his accumulations were merely incidental.

But even this diversion has finally palled upon the taste of the rich man. He no longer takes pleasure in the anguish of the shorn lambs, and there are very few corporations left for him to wreck. Stockholders now know him so well that they drop their property and flee at his approach, and he is denied the old delight of bringing his craft and skill to overcome their resistance. Nobody dares to oppose him, and existence becomes monotonous to a man of whom it may be said nobody differs with him, because he has such strong opinions and wears such heavy boots. The rich man has exhausted his own country in more senses than one; and he would go abroad. He has used the boundless continent as his playground and the great commercial enterprises of the Republic as his playthings. Now, with the wrecks of his broken toys about him, he turns his eyes to other and foreign lands and reaches out his hands for experiences. Why should he not go? With the loot of innumerable corporations and myriads of stock raids in his coffers, he may build and equip a fleet to serve his pleasure and comfort. No more royal or imperial potentate can travel as Gould can, if he chose. This choice representative of honest toil can go forth to the nations of the Old World conveyed by magnificence to which the gorgeous pomp of a Venetian Doge would be but a tawdry show. He contents himself with a modest steam yacht, the fastest of its build afloat, and the cost of which no man can estimate. The king will amuse himself in a merely royal fashion.

Probably no man ever went on a long vacation followed by so many wishes for his continued enjoyment abroad as Mr. Gould will draw after him when his yacht glides down the shining seas bearing its precious freight of cunning, wealth and unscrupulousness. The world of business will hope for him a vacation so enjoyable that he will never want to come back. Timid people who wake up at night and fancy that they hear him breaking into their banks, railroad offices, and safe deposits may then sleep in peace. The stockholders of legitimate business corporations may breathe freer when he is gone; and sundry hard-worked judges may then turn their attention to the prayers of clients who have nothing but the justice of their claims to bring into court. The law and the lawyers may take a long vacation. For two years or more there will be no pressing demand for injunctions, receivers, mergers, stays of proceedings, intervenors, and the other machinery and chicanery of the courts. His newspapers are now so well trained that they cry out whenever any of his little jobs are threatened; and they no longer heed his personal orders. The Swedish buccaker raves about proletarians and revolutions whenever a legislator touches one of the Gould interests; and the Trombone carefully rigs the market every Monday morning in token of its gratitude for past favors and its hopes for more hereafter. Gould can be spared. He has earned a long vacation, and the longer he makes it, the better for his fellow-countrymen.

How will the king amuse himself in foreign parts? He says that he chiefly desires to explore the seats of ancient civilizations. Naturally he has a taste for ruins. He expects to see many countries where the people are not persecuted with railroads and telegraph lines. At least this is what he says; but what he means is that he will see countries in which Jay Gould is an impossibility. There are such happy realms somewhere beneath the sun. Being graciously pleased to accept Stanley's report of the interior of Africa, and other traveler's tales of the polar circle, he will not venture thither. He will gratify his passion for ruins in India, China, Greece and the Islands of the Mediterranean. If the whim seizes him, and let us hope it may, he will imitate the good Mr. Cennola, and tarry a year at Cyprus and dig for antiquities. This would be congenial business. Thinkable-rigging and the kindred occupations. The Gould collection of Cypriot antiquities will sell at previous attempts in that line of jewelry. When he is in the land of the ancients, he says, he will travel as the ancients did. Through India he will move with a double team of big elephants. Across the deserts of Nubia he will travel on dromedaries, and

in China, let us suppose, he will be carried on the backs of coolies, or will be jolted over the Tibetan frontier in a mule-litter. His royal progress should be described by the pen of some graphic writer. Is there not one of Jay Gould's journalistic staff who can be enlisted for this historical excursion? We send Gould abroad as the perfect flower of American institutions. He is peculiar to the soil. Let us hear how he is regarded by the rest of mankind.

HOOD COUNTY.

Correspondence of the Gazette.

Thorp Springs, February 18, 1883.—We had fine, bracing weather last week. Since Prof. Wiggins has called in his prophecy, and retired from practice, we feel less alarmed about his predicted conflict of the elements in March. The fresh black and chocolate colored land on many a broad acre in this county that was last week turned up by the plow, now lies in the sunshine awaiting the seed from which the farmers hope to harvest remunerative crops next fall.

Our village continues to recruit its population.

Capt. Walters, a former member of Sol Ross' brigade, has bought property here and will shortly move his family from Terrell, for the purpose of having his children educated in the literary department of the Thorp Springs Commercial College. Col. W. L. McGaughey, of Hood, has rented a house here for his family for the same purpose, and Capt. Farr, whose family, after a few months stay in Hood returned to Greenville, Hunt county, is now coming back to the Springs to enter the children at this same college. This institution is receiving a solid support and bids fair at no distant day, to take a stand among the most valuable educational enterprises of our state. The longer a man "who knows what's what" remains in this northwest section of Texas, the more fully he realizes the vast extent of its capabilities, and the more clearly he perceives the ample room for grand and durable enterprises of many descriptions. If some heavy English capitalist with sound judgment should come here and use our hard limestone rock to build dams and factories in massive English style on some suitable stream of everliving water, such as can be found in this hill country, and should they bring in the latest improved patterns of machinery and skilled operators to spin our cotton and wool, it would pay, and it would mark an important era in the complete development of this fertile and healthy portion of the world.

Factories in the south sometimes fail because of the attempt to run them with cheap and inferior machinery. Such attempts injure the country.

We are proud to note that our senator, John H. T aylor, is putting in some healthy lies for this part of the state.

STRONG
FACTS!

A great many people are asking
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IRON BITTERS is good for.

It will cure Heart Disease, Paralysis, Dropsy, Kidney Disease, Consumption, Dyspepsia, Rheumatism, Neuralgia, and all similar diseases.

Its wonderful curative power is simply because it purifies and enriches the blood, thus beginning at the foundation, and by building up the system, drives out all disease.

A Lady Cured of Rheumatism.

Baltimore, Md., May 7, 1880.
My health was much shattered by Rheumatism when I commenced taking BROWN'S Iron Bitters, and scarcely had strength enough to attend to my daily household duties. I am now using the third bottle and I am regaining strength daily, and I cheerfully recommend it to all.
I cannot say too much in praise of it. Mrs. Mary E. BRASHEAR,
173 Presmanet.

Kidney Disease Cured.

Christiansburg, Va., 1881.
Suffering from kidney disease, from which I could get no relief, I tried BROWN'S Iron Bitters, which cured me completely. A child of mine, recovering from scarlet fever, had no appetite and did not seem to be able to eat at all. I gave him Iron Bitters with the happiest result.
J. KYLA MONTAGUE.

Heart Disease.

Vine St., Harrisburg, Pa.
Dec. 2, 1881.
After trying different physicians and many remedies for palpitation of the heart without receiving any benefit, I was advised to try BROWN'S Iron Bitters. I have used two bottles and never found anything that gave me so much relief.
Mrs. Jennie Hess.

For the peculiar troubles to which ladies are subject, BROWN'S IRON BITTERS is invaluable. Try it.

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